

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

#### **Listing of claims:**

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (New). A process for the production of L-aldonolactone from L-aldohehexose by a microorganism belonging to the genus *Pseudomonas* or *Gluconobacter* capable of producing L-aldonolactone from L-aldohehexose, and, optionally, isolating the L-aldonolactone from the reaction mixture, wherein the L-aldonolactone is selected from the group consisting of L-gulono-1,4-lactone, L-gulonic acid, L-galactono-1,4-lactone, and L-galactonic acid and the L-aldohehexose is selected from L-gulose or L-galactose.

Claim 11 (New). The process according to claim 10 wherein the microorganism is *Pseudomonas putida* or *Gluconobacter oxydans*.

Claim 12 (New). The process according to claim 11 wherein the microorganism is *P. putida* ATCC 21812 or *G. oxydans* IFO 3293.

Claim 13 (New). The process of claim 10 wherein the microorganism is used in a growing culture or a resting cell reaction.

Claim 14 (New). The process of claim 10 wherein the process is conducted for 1 to 120 h at a pH in the range of from about 1 to about 9 and at a temperature in the range of from about 13°C to about 45°C.

Claim 15 (New). The process of claim 14 wherein the process is conducted for 1 to 120 h at a pH in the range of from about 2 to about 8 and at a temperature in the range of from about 18°C to about 42°C.